

Fetal Radiation Risk



PREGNANCY & RADIATION



There are radiation-related risks through pregnancy that are related to the stage of pregnancy and absorbed dose. Radiation risks are most significant during organo-genesis and in the early fetal period, somewhat less in the 2nd trimester and least in the 3rd trimester.

Measures should be taken to protect all females of reproductive capacity: patients who are to undergo x-ray examination of the abdomen, pelvis, lower spine, etc., should be asked whether they are pregnant or if there is a possibility that they might be pregnant.

**Pregnant?
or think
you could be?**

**Please tell your doctor
before an X-ray or nuclear
medicine procedure**

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Pregnancy and Medical Radiation



What are the risks of having medical examination involving ionizing radiation during pregnancy?

A pregnant woman is more sensitive to radiation than a woman who is not pregnant. The risk associated with ionising radiation must be explained to women of reproductive age who are referred by their medical doctors for computed tomography (CT scanning), nuclear medicine, angiography and X-ray examinations. Female patients should notify the radiographer or physician if there is a chance they may be pregnant. This may effect decisions about which type of examination to do and whether the test should be delayed until after a pregnancy.

Prenatal Radiation Exposure



What are the risks of the unborn baby of the mother having a medical examination involving radiation?

If you are pregnant and you are scheduled to have any kind of medical imaging, you must tell your radiographer.

If you have concerns at all regarding exposure to medical sources of radiation, please discuss with your medical doctor.

What if a woman is breastfeeding and needs to have nuclear medicine procedure?

When a radiopharmaceutical is given as part of a nuclear medicine procedure, it spreads throughout the body.

Some radiopharmaceuticals can enter the breast milk of nursing mothers and be consumed by an infant.



Radiation safety for breastfeeding mother

To avoid, unnecessary exposure of infant to the radiopharmaceuticals, breast feeding will have to be suspended for a short period of time after the nuclear medicine procedure. The length of the period should be advised by the physician.

If breastfeeding or pregnant at the time of nuclear medicine procedure, a woman needs to inform the imaging staff or the physician before the procedure.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Unborn babies are more sensitive to radiation. Risk depends on stage of pregnancy, type of procedure and the amount of radiation used.